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National Federation of State Humanities Councils

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Government and Public Affairs

TO: Chairmen and Executive Directors of State Humanities Councils

FROM: Federation Staff

DATE: July 26, 1985

SUBJECT: NEH FY 1986 BUDGET; SENATE ACTION ON REAUTHORIZATION BILL; HOUSE HEARING ON NEH REAUTHORIZATION; NEH CHAIRMANSHIP; FIFTEEN-YEAR REPORT ON STATE HUMANITIES COUNCILS AND SEPTEMBER 12 RECEPTION

NEH FY 1986 BUDGET

On Tuesday, July 16, the full House Appropriations Committee passed its version of an Interior Appropriations bill, including a proposed FY 1986 budget for the National Endowment for the Humanities and other cultural agencies. As recommended by the House Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies (Sidney Yates, Chairman), the full Appropriations Committee included \$150,000,000 for the NEH in the bill. The table, below, presents the breakdown of the recommended budget. \$24,000,000 is allocated to the Division of State Programs, (a 12.08% increase over the DSP's FY 1985 budget of \$21,413,000). Modest increases are included for other NEH divisions.

The House of Representatives is apparently determined to consider a number of 1986 appropriations bills, including the Interior bill, before the August Congressional recess. If the bill does not reach the House floor by the end of the month, however, approval will be delayed until September.

In the Senate, no date has been set for the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies to consider a Senate Interior Appropriations bill. Action there may also be delayed until September. It is clear that activity will move very quickly then if appropriations bills are to be completed before the end of the current fiscal year on September 30. If not, a continuing resolution will be necessary to maintain work in federal agencies until appropriations bills are passed.